



# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## **San Diego SBA Announces Local Small Business Week Award Recipients**

**San Diego, CA** – The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will publicly honor local small business owners and advocates on May 19, 2006, at the annual Small Business Awards Luncheon to be held at the San Diego Marriott Hotel and Marina on Harbor Drive in downtown San Diego. SBA is co-sponsoring the event with San Diego's Regional Chamber of Commerce. Over 1,000 are expected to participate in the celebration.

Each year, the President of the United States designates one week to recognize the contributions of small business to the American economy. SBA's National Entrepreneurial Conference and Expo are being held in Washington, D.C. April 12 - 13. For more information or for Expo registration, interested parties can visit the Expo website at <http://www.sba.gov/sbw/>.

"As America celebrates 53 years of SBA's existence, it's an excellent opportunity to celebrate the small businesses that have helped make our nation great," says SBA San Diego District Director Dr. Ruben Garcia. "SBA has helped well over 20 million Americans start, grow and expand their businesses, placing tens of billions of dollars in loans into the hands of entrepreneurs in all sectors of the economy. Small business ownership remains the enduring symbol of the American Dream."

Business organizations, chambers of commerce and trade associations typically nominate candidates. A panel is convened at the San Diego district office to review local nominations and select a winner in each of the several categories. District office nominees are sent to SBA's regional office in Los Angeles for judging, and the regional office then submits nominations for national consideration. The regional office covers California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam.

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**2006 SBA AWARDS**

SBA will present awards to the following San Diego area business owners and champions:

**2006 Small Business Person of the Year**

- Tony Saadat, Electronic Online Systems (EOS), International
- Nominator: Lloyd Hendrickson, Wells Fargo Bank

**2006 Women-Owned Small Business of the Year**

- Julie Brown, San Diego Insurance Staffing & The Insurance Training Academy
- Nominator: Ken Clark, Southwestern College Small Business Development & International Trade Center

**2006 Family Owned Small Business of the Year**

- Kurt Honold and Family, Burgers & Beer
- Nominator: Robert Villarreal, CDC Small Business Finance

**2006 SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

- Dennis Caco, Autocannon, Inc.
- Nominator: Ken Clark, Southwestern College SBDITC

**2006 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**

(San Diego District and SBA Region IX winner)

- Aaron Ellison, Human Systems Development
- Nominator: Sudershan Shaunak, SBDC, North San Diego, Mira Costa College

**2006 Delores Braswell Award: Advocating Women in Business**

- Terri Fraser, Fraser & Associates
- Nominator: Ken Clark, Southwestern College SBDITC

**2006 Minority Small Business Champion of the Year**

- Daniel Scott III
- Nominator: Sudershan Shaunak, SBDC North San Diego, Mira Costa College

**2006 Financial Services Champion of the Year**

- Eric Eng, Cairns, Eng, Applegate (CEA), LLP
- Nominator: Win Englebert, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.

**2006 Small Business Lender of the Year**

- Kurt Chilcott, CDC Small Business Finance Corp.

**2006 Small Business Lender of the Year**

- Rick Benito, Bank of America

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**Additional Awards at the Small Business Week Luncheon**

The following additional awards will be presented at the May 19 small business week event, and added information on these winners will be provided when available:

- The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce will recognize five outstanding San Diego area businesses.
- The San Diego Business Improvement District (BID) Council will recognize its BID Business of the Year, selected from this year's winners from each of San Diego's 18 BID's.
- San Diego area government procuring agencies will recognize their Contractors of the Year.
- San Diego area large prime contractors will recognize their small business Subcontractors of the Year.

**Small Business Week Awards Luncheon Seats Now Available**

Luncheon seats are available. For tickets and to register for the event, please contact the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce at (619) 544-1339. You may also register online at: [www.sdchamber.org](http://www.sdchamber.org). For additional information, call (619) 544-1335.

**Media Invited to Small Business Week Awards Luncheon**

Media attendance is encouraged. Please contact SBA's Cynthia Harris at (619) 557-7250, extension 1155. Note: Lunch is complimentary for members of the press.

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*NOTE: More detailed descriptions of each small business winner is available. Please call Cynthia Harris, SBA, at (619) 557-7250, extension 1155.*